THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. In line with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's (USCPSC) action, the health protection branch (HPB) of Health Canada has warned Canadian consumers not to wear 4 brands of rayon and rayon made Indian skirts as samples of these 4 brands did not meet the flammability requirements laid downs in the Hazardous Products Act of Canada.

(b) and (c) A flammability Testing and Certification Programme for such skirts has since been introduced for Canada and all such skirts are now being exported to Canada, only after they have been tested in notified laboratories and have been found to comply with the flammability standards of Canada. A similar programme had earlier been introduced for the U.S.A. in view of the findings of the USCPSC, in regard to the flammability of sheer rayon chiffon skirts being exported to the U.S.A. from India.

Garment Export Entitlement Policy

1065. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in announcing long term Garments Export Entitlement Policy, 1994 is affecting export of silk unembroidered garments; and

(b) if so; what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There was no delay in announceing the Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Policy (1994-96).

(b) Does not arise.

Sick NTC mills in West Bengal

1066. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills declared sick in West Bengal so far; and

(b) what measures are being contemplated by Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Calcutta has under it 12 mills in West Bengal . NTC (WBABO) Ltd. has been declared as a 'sick industrial Company' by the BIFR.

The Textile Research Associations have prepared plan for the Modernisation of the NTC mills, including the mills of NTC (WBAB & O) Ltd. A Turn Around Plan for the NTC is being considered but no decision has been taken by Government so far. Any revival plan will also require the approval of the Board for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction before it is implemented.

Export of Woollen Garments

1067. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which India has been exporting woollens;

(b) whether Indian woollen garments have great demand in West Europe, North America and Scandinavian countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the export of woollen garments to those countries?